

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 670

By Person, Curtis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Charles R. "Bobby" Blancett, Jr.,
upon his induction into the Memphis Amateur
Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Charles R. "Bobby" Blancett, Jr., who began his life in sports in the early 1940s; on December 8, 2003, Mr. Blancett was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee's schools and athletic programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blancett has been involved in amateur athletics in Memphis since his early childhood; he was born in 1932, to Charles Robert and Clara Godwin Blancett in Memphis, and grew up in the Lauderdale Courts, one of Memphis's first downtown public housing developments; while attending the downtown YMCA in Memphis with his younger brother, George, Bobby Blancett was introduced to boxing and other sports; he won the first of his City Prep boxing championships for his weight class while in the seventh grade and won two more weight division titles before ending his boxing career with only one loss; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blancett traces much of his athletic ability to his participation in sports at the public playgrounds and to being coached by such sportsmen as John Goodspeed, Rube Boyce, and Malcolm Phillips; further honing his talents, Bobby Blancett played two years of junior high football at Humes, where he improved the passing and kicking skills learned from his sandlot days; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blancett was honored to be selected to several 1951 All-Memphis Teams, and his high school coaches found Blancett's natural talents and leadership to be a vital asset to the team; indeed, they considered him their "on the field" coach; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Blancett was offered a grant-in-aid to play college football, but he chose to serve his country as a member of the United States Army and enlisted in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in reflecting upon his many memorable moments in sports, one of Bobby Blancett's favorites is the time he made a long touchdown run from the line of scrimmage in a game at Forest City, Arkansas; although credited with a sixty-yard run, the actual yardage was nearly twice that distance, as he ran from sideline to sideline to elude would-be tacklers along the way; and

WHEREAS, another fond memory dates back to 1951, the year he was selected on the All-Memphis Football Teams by three different selection groups; in that year, Bobby Blancett threw a touchdown pass to his brother in their first football game together at Humes High School in a game in Jackson, Tennessee, with the unbeaten "Golden Bears"; the Golden Bears were leading 6 to 0 with the ball on Humes's 20-yard line with less than one minute to play; faced with the overwhelming task of covering eighty yards against the formidable Jackson defense in the remaining seconds, Coach Boyce sent the untested younger Blancett in the game to run a pass route from the right halfback position on a play called "Flood Right"; as George ran the designated route, he caught a glimpse of open field to his left and broke off his route to take advantage of the sea in the Golden Bears' pass coverage; and

WHEREAS, Quarterback Bobby Blancett, having grown up on the Memphis playgrounds with his brother, George, anticipated his improvisation, and his pass to his younger brother hit him in full stride at midfield and enabled him to speed to the end zone for an eighty-yard touchdown; and

WHEREAS, the extra point resulted in victory for Humes and inspired Coach Boyce to incorporate the unplanned play, now termed "Flood Right, Blancett Way" into his playbook; the City of Memphis was abuzz about this victory, as the headlines of the sports pages read, "Blancett Brothers Star"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blancett returned home after serving two years in the U.S. Army and was asked by his friends to quarterback Guthrie Park's touch-football team in the Park Commission's football program; his leadership and skills led his team to many victories and a great deal of fun; and

WHEREAS, since the 1950s, Bobby Blancett has continued to engage his passion for sports by officiating football games; he is a member of the Mid-South Football Official Association and the Tri-State Football Official Associations; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Blancett married his high school girlfriend, Martha Woodward, and they have three accomplished sons, Michael, Jeffrey, and Chris; Michael and his wife, Demesia Fleece Blancett, have given Bobby and Martha two grandsons, Nicholas and Jonah; Jeff and his wife, Lauri Bush Blancett, have one son, Riley; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Mr. Charles R. "Bobby" Blancett, Jr., was selected for induction into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to recognize and commend Bobby Blancett for his excellence both on and off the athletic field and, as a man of true character and commitment, Mr. Blancett has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow Tennesseans and should be properly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Charles R. "Bobby" Blancett, Jr., in congratulating him upon his induction into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, honor and commend him for his substantial legacy as a player and as an official, and offer our heartfelt thanks for the dedication which he has shown this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.